# THE LAST SPEECH OF THOMAS EARLE OF *STRAFFORD*, upon the Scaffold on *Towerhill*, on Wednesday the Twelfth of *May*, 1641.

BODLEIAN LIBRARY

Printed in the Yeare 1641.

# SPEECH

OF

# THOMAS

EARL OF STAFFORD,

upon the Scaffold on Tower-

on Wednesday the Twelfth of

1680.

# THE LAST SPEECH OF THOMAS Earle of STRAFFORD, upon the Scaffold on Tower-Hill, on wednsday the Twelfth day of May, 1641.

MY Lord Primate of *Ireland*, and the reſt of theſe Gentlemen, it is a very great comfort to me to have your Lordſhip by me this day, and I doe give the Lord harty thankes, in regard I have been knowne to you ſo long, I ſhall bee very glad to be heard of you in a few words which I doubt will not bee, my Lord I come hither by the good will and pleaſure of Almighty God to pay the laſt debt I owe to ſinne, that is death, and through death hope to recover eternall life.

Being diſturbed ſate downe and inquired the matter (ſome ſaid) the ſouldiers kept a ſtirre, he replied, if they would bee quiet,

all the reſt would bee ſo, I deſired to have had it more quiet but could not, ſo ſate down againe.

Then riſing up ſaid, my Lord, if I might be ſo much beholding to you as to uſe a few words, I ſhall bee much bound unto you, I ſay, my Lord Primate I thinke my ſelfe happie to have your Lordſhip by mee now I am to pay that debt of ſinne, I am come hither to ſubmitt to that Judgement that is to proceed againſt me, I do it freely, willingly, & quietly, I do freely forgive all the world, with a forgivenes that is not ſpoken from the teeth outward, as the proverb is, but from the heart, that I can ſay there is not ſo much as a diſpleaſing thought in me againſt any creatur, I thank God I may ſay truely too, and my conſcience beares me witneſſe, that there hath not beene any thing in my heart but the joynt and individuall proſperity of King and people; I ſay I never had an evill intent againſt the good of the people, if it hath beene my fortune to be miſunderſtood, it is the common portion of all in this world to erre; the righteous Judgement we muſt looke for hereafter when wee muſt be judged by another.

There is one thing I deſire to cleare my ſelfe of, and I hope I ſhall have your Chriſtian charity in the behalfe of it, I did ever thinke that the Parliaments of *England* was

the

the happieſt condition that any Kingdome did ever live under, and under God the beſt meanes to make men happie; ſo farre have I beene in beeing againſt Parliaments, for my death, I doe heare acquitt all the world, and beſeech the God of Heaven hartily to forgive them.

My Lord Primate, I am very glad that his Majeſtie conceives me not meriting ſo ſevere and heavy a puniſhment as the uttermoſt execution of this ſentence, and doe infinitely rejoyce in this mercy of his, & I beſeech God returne it upon him that he may finde mercie when he hath moſt neede.

I doe deſire the well-fare of this Kingdome, and ever did it in my proſperitie; I did it living; and now dying it is my wiſh.

And I would have every man to lay his hand to his heart, and ſeriouſly conſider, whether the beginning of the happineſſe of a Kingdome ſhould be written in Letters of blood; and I deſire that all may be forgiven unto the leaſt drop of my blood, and that the leaſt drop of my blood may never riſe up againſt any; for I feare, you are in the wrong way.

Now my Lord, I here profeſſe my ſelfe, that I doe dye an obedient ſonne to the Church of *England*, I pray God that pro-

spiritie and happineſſe ever be unto it. And whereas it is objected, if it be an objection worthy of Answering, concerning my inclining to Popery, this I declare that never since I was two and twenty yeares old, and now that I am going into forty-nine, that ever I had any inclination unto it, and I cannot remember that ever any had the boldneſſe to ſuggeſt me to any ſuch thing in any kinde, and ſo I ſubmit my ſelfe to Allmightie God, going the way that all fleſh muſt goe.

I deſire that I may be forgiven by every man for my raſh or unadviſed words or deeds, and I deſire that I may have ſilence of you, and that all will joyne with mee in Prayer to Allmighty God for mee, ſo my Lord, farewell, and all the things in this world, farewell; and let mee have the Prayers of all you that heare me this day; I hope wee ſhall all meet in Heaven, and live eternally there to receive the accompliſhment of all things that Chriſt hath purchaſed for us, ſo even ſo, Lord Jeſus bleſſe you all, and be mercifull to mee.

FINIS.